



Participation Fee FAQ

updated June 30, 2023

What is the Council Participation Fee?

After an intensive 18-month strategic planning process, NCAC’s volunteer Executive Board determined that our Scouts would be better served by a local Council Participation Fee that would provide consistent revenue and be more equitable to those who support our Scouts. Beginning January 1, 2024, an annual Council Participation Fee of \$80.00 will be assessed to all youth participating in Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Sea Scouts programs.

- Families with three (3) or more Scouts will be capped at paying three (3) Participation Fees.
- Scouts participating in more than one program will pay one (1) Participation Fee.
- **No youth will be turned away for an inability to pay the Participation Fee.** NCAC has always provided financial assistance when needed and will continue to do so.

When will I have to pay the Council Participation Fee?

For Scouts currently registered, the Council Participation Fee will be collected as part of your unit’s next annual re-registration, often referred to as “rechartering.”

Don’t the fees my Scout already pays cover all the costs?

NCAC does not directly receive any of the BSA membership fees currently paid as shown in the graphic below.



Units may have additional fees or dues to pay for a unit's programs and activities; those fees also remain with the unit, and do not go to NCAC. Many units also fundraise for these fees and activities, we encourage units to continue those efforts.

Why is there a new Council Participation Fee?

NCAC works tirelessly to deliver a safe and high-quality Scouting program to our families in a cost-effective manner. Today it annually costs \$240.00 per youth to deliver this quality Scouting program.

In prior years, NCAC has subsidized 100% of this cost through corporate donations, major gifts, foundations, fundraising events, board donations, and our Family Friends of Scouting campaign. However, in recent years, the combination of a steady decline in participation in our Family Friends of Scouting -- less than 10% of all families in Scouting -- and the volunteer and professional costs required to maintain this campaign has made it impractical to continue this model.

Nationwide, we have seen many other local councils successfully transition to a similar fee, while achieving membership growth. This change will also allow our staff and volunteer time to directly support our units and programs instead of soliciting for contributions.

What has NCAC done to manage costs?

NCAC has a current staff of 50 professionals who are a critical part of our Scouting success and serve over 30,000 youth and 18,000 adult volunteers. NCAC cannot provide an acceptable level of customer service and support by further reducing staff size or costs. Our goal is to fill all current staff vacancies, resulting in our Council being fully staffed and prepared to support our Scouting programs.

Why is the Council Participation Fee only for Youth?

Two factors influenced this decision. During this year's BSA National Annual Meeting, we learned of increases to BSA membership fees which include a one-third increase for adults. Additional consideration was given to BSA's new policy that effective September 1, 2023, all adults staying overnight in connection with a Scouting activity must be currently registered in an adult fee-required position or as an adult program participant. In light of these factors, the Council Participation Fee was limited to youth.

What is the Future of the NCAC Participation Fee?

NCAC's volunteer Executive Board reviews all aspects of our Council's operating budget annually and makes recommendations. NCAC is committed to being good stewards of all funds collected.

How can I help going forward?

No youth will be turned away for an inability to pay the Council Participation Fee. NCAC has always provided financial assistance when needed and will continue to do so. If you would like to make a charitable donation to help another NCAC Scouting family, visit ncacbsa.org/participation-fee

NCAC's Endowment Fund also provides financial assistance to deserving Scouts with camperships to attend summer camps. For more information, visit ncacbsa.org/endowment-planned-giving

How will financial support be made available?

No youth will be turned away for an inability to pay the Council Participation Fee. The financial support process is still being determined, and NCAC is committed to developing a simple process that is not burdensome for families and supporters of our Scouts.

Were alternatives to a Council Participation Fee considered?

The Participation Fee Committee considered a number of alternatives, including those shared by families and volunteers during our multiple Listening Sessions; however, no alternatives were able to fulfill the goals of the Executive Board to provide consistent revenue, be more equitable to all Scouting families and Scout supporters, and help support the true cost of Scouting.

For more information: [NCACBSA.ORG/PARTICIPATION-FEE](https://ncacbsa.org/participation-fee)



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